

City of Fairfield and a combined two years with the Yolo County Sheriff's Department and the Antioch Police Department. As her colleagues, friends and family gather together to celebrate the next chapter of her life, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in saluting this outstanding public servant and defender of peace and safety.

Christina started her law enforcement career as a Reserve Police Officer with the Antioch Police Department. She was then hired as a Deputy Sheriff by the Yolo County Sheriff's Department in November of 1985 and on August 18, 1986, she was hired as a Police Officer with the Fairfield Police Department. Christina worked in various capacities that included Patrol, Investigations, Youth Services, School Resource Officer, Cadet Advisor, Gang Suppression, Police Probation Team, Crime Scene Investigator, and Property. She received numerous commendations for her performance including Police Officer of the Year for 1997.

Christina's two most significant contributions to the Police Department were her expertise as a composite sketch artist and her talent in mentoring youths within the community. Her artistic talent and ability to create like images of suspects has helped solve numerous crimes in Fairfield. Her work as a Cadet Advisor and Diversion Officer was also exceptional. She intervened at many different levels by confronting and challenging youths that were showing destructive behavior through the appropriate amount of counseling and intervention opportunities for them and their families. Christina's work has made a difference to the citizens of Fairfield.

Christina was a valued employee and leader and her commitment to the community was evidenced on a daily basis. She was a loyal representative of the law enforcement community and admired for her hard work, dedication, and positive work ethic.

Mr. Speaker, I am truly honored to pay tribute to this dedicated public servant. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in wishing Christina M. Golez continued success and happiness in all of her future endeavors.

**HONORING NORWALK,
CONNECTICUT POLICE OFFICERS**

HON. JAMES A. HIMES

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 11, 2011

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the police officers who have dedicated their lives to serving the people of Norwalk, Connecticut.

Since its formation in 1913, the Norwalk Police Department has improved the quality of life for generations of citizens. Its officers' vigilant protection of the city's residents and their property has formed the foundation of public peace, order and tranquility that has allowed Norwalk to prosper.

Every day, Norwalk's police officers take on the responsibility of keeping the city safe. It can be a dangerous job. Five times in its history, the Norwalk Police Department has suffered the loss of one of its own in the line of duty. Sergeants Frank S. Stratton and Nicholas W. Fera, and Officers Sherrald Gorton, Marco Carias and Matthew Morelli each lost

their lives in service to the community they sought to protect. We are forever indebted to them, and I join the people of Norwalk in honoring their memory today.

We also remember the retired officers of the Norwalk Police Department who passed away this year. All who serve today carry on a proud tradition inherited from those who wore the uniform in days gone by. We commemorate their service and we celebrate their lives.

Every officer deserves our praise. Their daily work makes it possible for each of us to enjoy the benefits of liberty, secure in the knowledge that our neighborhoods and places of business are safe. The dedication of Norwalk's officers to preventing crime and educating the public has spared so many families from experiencing unnecessary tragedy. And their collaboration with residents and business owners has promoted a sense of shared responsibility that makes the city an example to other communities nationwide.

To every officer who has served Norwalk with pride in years past, and every officer serving today, I offer my gratitude. And to the families of those men who gave their lives in the line of duty, I express the eternal thanks of a city, a state and a nation that can never say "thank you" enough.

CONGRATULATING THE ST. SEBASTIAN PARISH ON THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ST. SEBASTIAN FEAST

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 11, 2011

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to extend my sincere congratulations to the St. Sebastian Parish as they celebrate the 90th Anniversary of the St. Sebastian Feast. This wonderful annual celebration has become one of Middletown, Connecticut's most beloved community events. This is a remarkable milestone and I am proud to have this opportunity to commemorate this very special anniversary.

The Feast of St. Sebastian is a blend of faith, culture, and tradition. The three-day event reconnects city residents to their Sicilian heritage. The tradition dates back to 1414, when it is said that a statue of St. Sebastian washed up on the shores near Melilli, a small town in Sicily. No one could lift the statue except for the residents of Melilli, and they carried it to a place where they later built a church in the saint's name.

In the early 20th Century, immigrants from Melilli moved in large numbers to Middletown and soon there were enough families there to form a vibrant and close-knit Italian community that desired its own place of worship. Through a massive fundraising effort, the donation of materials, and the labor of masons, plasterers and stone carvers, the Italian community realized the dream of its own church, a significant local cultural symbol and the only Italian national parish in the Diocese of Norwich. The Feast of St. Sebastian was first celebrated in Middletown in 1921 and proceeds from the feast's early years helped finance the building of the church.

Today, the Feast is run by a committee of dedicated congregation members and pro-

ceeds continue to benefit the church. Carnival rides, traditional Italian fare, and musical entertainment are part of the festivities, but the heart of the event happens Sunday, when, after Mass, the church's statue of St. Sebastian is carried in a procession and I Nuri, a group dressed in white with red sashes, run barefoot or in socks in a show of devotion for the saint. The procession has grown to include hundreds of people and, as you might imagine, it is an extraordinarily beautiful demonstration of faith and culture.

It is events like the Feast of St. Sebastian, those forged in the bonds of family and community, which allow generation after generation to understand and celebrate their shared heritage. They enrich our communities as well as renew our commitment to faith and family. I am honored to stand today to extend my warmest congratulations to the St. Sebastian Parish and its many families as they celebrate the 90th Anniversary of their Feast of St. Sebastian. The Feast is a real community treasure and I wish them all the best for many more successful years to come.

**A TRIBUTE TO BETTY JEAN
VERETT PEPPER**

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 11, 2011

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, Betty Jean Verett Pepper was born on April 28, 1931, in Crosby County, Texas, to Charley and Maggie (Fenoglio) Verett. She was the youngest of the family's nine children who were raised working on the family farm. Betty Jean graduated from Ralls High School and went on to graduate from Texas Technological College in Lubbock, Texas, in 1952.

At Texas Tech she met Herbert Leslie Pepper and they married in 1953. Leslie and Jean moved to the San Antonio area where their three sons were born and raised, also working on the family farm and in agriculture-related businesses.

Now back in Lubbock and known as Mama Jean to her own family and the expanded Verett families, she not only remembers the birthdays, anniversaries and other special occasions of this group, but personally calls each one on those special days.

That is why we want to take this opportunity to remember her 80th birthday on April 28, 2011, and to wish her many more joyous celebrations with her sons, six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

COMMEMORATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ASIAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER AMERICAN HEALTH FORUM

HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 11, 2011

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the board and staff of the Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum on the 25th anniversary of their founding. They are guided by a mission to influence policy, mobilize communities, and strengthen programs